

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 050405Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9181

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 1159

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR JA MY

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN REACTION TO HAZAMA-GUMI BOMBING

REF: A) TOKYO 2668

B) TOKYO 2741

C) KL A-22, FEB 13, 1975 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: SENIOR MALAYSIAN CIVIL SERVANT IN PERAK STATE, SITE OF HAMAZA-GUMI'S TEMENGGOR DAM PROJECT, IS QUOTED IN MARCH 5 "NEW STRAITS TIMES" AS SAYING "WE BELIEVE THAT THE ATTACK HAS NO CONNECTION WITH THE DAM...THE EXPLOSION...COULD BE THE WORK OF JAPANESE RADICALS ATTACKING BIG BUSINESS." PERAK'S CHIEF MINISTER HAS ALSO ASSURED WORKERS AT DAM PROJECT THAT "MAXIMUM SECURITY IS BEING PROVIDED FOR THEM." END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: FOLLOWING KILLING OF JAPANESE DEPENDENT IN DECEMBER AND RECEIPT BY JAPANESE AMBASSADOR HERE OF LETTER FROM COMMUNIST TERRORISTS THREATENING REPRISALS FOR CONTINUED WORK ON DAM, HAZAMA-GUMI TEMPORARILY CLOSED DOWN OPERATIONS AT DAM SITE. IN LATE JANUARY CIVIL SERVANT REFERRED TO IN PARA 1 TOLD DCM THAT SUFFICIENT SECURITY WAS BEING PROVIDED TO WORKERS AT DAM SITE, AND HE BELIEVED JAPANESE WERE RENEGING ON THEIR CONTRACT IN ATTEMPT TO EXTORT MORE MONEY BECAUSE OF RISING COSTS. HE REHEARSED A WHOLE CATEGORY OF GRIEVANCES AGAINST JAPANESE ATTACKING THEM FOR DUPLICITY, ARROGANCE, AND GENERAL UNRELIABILITY, AND THREATENED THAT JAPANESE FAILURE TO CARRY OUT DAM PROJECT COULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS.

3. COMMENT: BOMBING OF HAZAMA-GUMI IN JAPAN INTRODUCES NEW ELEMENT IN EQUATION, BUT BASED ON STATEMENTS QUOTED ABOVE GOM OFFICIALS APPARENTLY INTEND TO IGNORE IT, AND TO PRESS FOR CONTINUED WORK ON DAM. COMPLAINTS ABOUT JAPANESE PERFORMANCE SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH A GRAIN OF SALT AS 1) JAPANESE STILL NOT LIKED HERE BECAUSE OF WARTIME EXPERIENCES, AND 2) GOVT AND MILITARY HAVE PLAINLY FAILED TO PLAN IN ADVANCE FOR ADEQUATE PROTECTION TO TEMENGGOR AND EAST-WEST HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION SITES. (WE HAVE HEARD THAT ROK CONTRACTORS FOR E-W HIGHWAY BRIDGES ARE NOT IMPRESSED BY GOM EFFORTS TIGHTEN SECURITY AT THEIR WORK SITE EITHER.)
UNDERHILL

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